



**AMERICAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
94TH SOUTHERN DIVISION MEETING**

in conjunction with

SOUTHERN IPM CENTER

and

SOUTHERN PLANT DIAGNOSTIC NETWORK

PROGRAM

**FEBRUARY 17-20, 2017
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS**

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AMERICAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

94th SOUTHERN DIVISION MEETING PROGRAM

The 94th annual meeting of the American Phytopathological Society, Southern Division, is being held in conjunction with the Southern IPM Center and the Southern Plant Diagnostic Network on February 17-20, 2017, in College Station, TX, at the Texas A&M AgriLife Center. Unless otherwise specified, all program events will take place at the AgriLife Center. Daily transportation between the Hilton College Station and Conference Center and the AgriLife Center will be provided. Buses will make only one trip each morning and evening. Attendees not riding the bus must purchase parking permits from Texas A&M Transportation Services. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided each day at the AgriLife Center. A cash bar will be available at the Welcome Reception and at the Awards Banquet at the Hilton College Station. Light snacks will be available at the Welcome Reception.

Join us on Facebook! - “Like” and follow the **APS Southern Division** and the **APS Southern Division - Graduate Students** pages on Facebook! Document your experiences throughout the meeting and post your photos using **#SDAPS2017**.

Friday, February 17, 2017

- 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Grant Writing Workshop
TAMU Centeq Building (Room 120B)
Van leaves from Hilton College Station and Conference Center at 8:30 AM.
- 4:00 - 5:00 Executive Committee Meeting
Hilton College Station and Conference Center (Room TBD)
- 6:00 - 8:00 Welcome Reception
Hilton College Station and Conference Center (Oakwood Ballroom)

Saturday, February 18, 2017

- 7:00 AM *Bus leaves from Hilton College Station and Conference Center.*
- 7:30 - 8:15 Registration and Poster Setup
- 8:15 - 8:45 Welcome
Kevin Ong, SD-APS President
Dr. Craig Nessler, Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Research
Dr. Doug Steele, Director, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

Graduate Student Research Competition (Session I), Moderator: Andrew Shirley, SD-APS
Graduate Student

- 8:45 - 9:00 AM *Pseudomonas floridiae* sp. nov., a novel bacterial pathogen isolated from tomato. **S. Timilsina**¹, G. V. Minsavage², J. Preston², M. Paret³, E. Goss², J. Jones², and G. Vallad¹; ¹Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, University of Florida, Wimauma, FL, ²University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, ³Univerisy of Florida, Quincy, FL.
- 9:00 - 9:15 Fitness and movement of *Xanthomonas perforans* and the effect of AvrBst on pathogenesis in tomato transplant production. **P. Abrahamian**¹, S. Timilsina¹, G. V. Minsavage², E. M. Goss², J. B. Jones², G. E. Vallad¹; ¹Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, University of Florida, Wimauma, FL, ²University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- 9:15 - 9:30 Assessing virulence and phylogenesis of QoI-resistant and -sensitive *Cercospora sojina* isolates from Mississippi soybean. **N. Brochard**¹, M. Tomaso-Peterson¹, T. Allen², and R. Melanson³; ¹Department of Biochemistry, Entomology, Molecular Biology, and Plant Pathology, Mississippi State University, MS, ²Mississippi State University, Delta Research and Extension Center, Stoneville, MS, ³Central Mississippi Research and Extension Center, Raymond, MS.
- 9:30 - 9:45 Host-specialized populations of *Corynespora cassiicola* causing emerging target spot epidemics in the southeastern U.S. **L. G. Sumabat**¹, R. C. Kemerait², and M. T. Brewer¹; ¹University of Georgia, Athens, GA, ²University of Georgia, Tifton, GA.
- 9:45 - 10:00 Refining supplemental chloropicrin applications in large scale plots. **C. J. Land**, G. E. Vallad, and N. Boyd; Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, University of Florida, Wimauma, FL.
- 10:00 - 10:30 *Poster Viewing & Networking*

Graduate Student Research Competition (Session II), Moderator: Michelle Oliveira, SD-APS
Graduate Student

- 10:30 - 10:45 AM Quantifying the impacts of fungicide phytotoxicity in Mississippi soybean. **W. J. Mansour**¹, M. Tomaso-Peterson², A. Henn², J. A. Bond¹, J. T. Irby³, and T. W. Allen¹; ¹Mississippi State University, Delta Research and Extension Center, Stoneville, MS, ²Department of Biochemistry, Entomology, Molecular Biology, and Plant Pathology, Mississippi State University, MS, ³Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, Mississippi State University, MS.

- 10:45 - 11:00 AM Evaluation of current fungicides for efficacy against cucurbit downy mildew on cucumber. **A. Shirley** and G. E. Vallad; Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, University of Florida, Wimauma, FL.
- 11:00 - 11:15 Impact of reduced fungicide sensitivity in *Fusicladium effusum* on fungicide efficacy under field conditions. **J. R. Standish**, T. B. Brenneman, and K. L. Stevenson; University of Georgia, Tifton, GA.
- 11:15 - 11:30 A tale of two regions: comparing genotypic and phenotypic profiles of *Stagonosporopsis* spp. in Florida and China. **M. J. Newark**¹, M. L. Paret², N. S. Dufault¹, and E. M. Goss¹; ¹University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, ²University of Florida, Quincy, FL.
- 11:30 - 11:45 An evaluation of QoI and SDHI fungicide sensitivity to target spot of tomato in Florida. **K. J. MacKenzie** and G. E. Vallad; Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, University of Florida, Wimauma, FL.
- 11:45 - 12:00 PM Using unmanned aircraft vehicles in rice cropping systems. **M. Jochum**¹, J. Jung², and J. Young-Ki¹; ¹Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, ²Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi, TX.
- 12:00 - 1:30 Student Workshop – “Careers 101 Workshop: Acing the Interview”
Leader: **Nicole Gauthier**, SD-APS Past President
Agriculture & Life Sciences Building, Room 114
- 12:00 - 1:30 Lunch
- 1:30 - 5:00 **Southern Plant Diagnostic Network (SPDN)**
SPDN Updates/Business Meeting
Agriculture & Life Sciences Building, Room 113

Graduate Student Research Competition (Session III), Moderator: Peter Abrahamian, SD-APS Graduate Student

- 1:30 - 1:45 PM Evaluation of common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) response to charcoal rot. **J. Colley-Pabon**¹, C. Estevez de Jensen¹, T. Porch², and J. S. Beaver¹; ¹University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, PR, ²USDA-ARS Tropical Agriculture Research Station, Mayaguez, PR.
- 1:45 - 2:00 *Rhizoctonia solani* field phenotyping in a peanut RIL population and lab inoculation method. **R. Cui**¹, T. B. Brenneman¹, C. Holbrook², and P. Ozias-Akins¹; ¹University of Georgia, Tifton, GA, ²USDA-ARS, Tifton, GA.

- 2:00 - 2:15 PM Effects of glyphosate on soybean nutrition, endophytic colonization by *Cercospora cf. flagellaris* and development of Cercospora leaf blight. **T. Garcia**¹, C. Robertson¹, E. Tubana¹, B. Ward¹, E. Silva¹, P. Price², R. Levy³, and R. Schneider¹; ¹Department of Plant Pathology & Crop Physiology, Louisiana State University AgCenter, Baton Rouge, LA, ²LSU AgCenter, Macon Ridge Research Station, Winnsboro, LA, ³Central Region, LSU AgCenter, Alexandria, LA.
- 2:15 - 2:30 Assessing applications of secondary nutrients as a management strategy for charcoal rot of soybean. **T. H. Wilkerson**¹, M. Tomaso-Peterson², B.R. Golden¹, S. Lu², A.B. Johnson³, and T.W. Allen¹; ¹Mississippi State University, Delta Research and Extension Center, Stoneville, MS, ²Department of Biochemistry, Entomology, Molecular Biology, and Plant Pathology, Mississippi State University, MS.
- 2:30 - 2:45 Resistance-proof approaches to suppression of strawberry powdery mildew (*Podosphaera aphanis*). **R. B. Onofre**¹, L. Cordova¹, B. A. Tadesse², A. Stensvand², D. M. Gadoury³, N. Peres¹; ¹Gulf Coast Research and Education Center, University of Florida, Wimauma, FL, ²Norwegian Institute for Bioeconomy Research, Aas, Norway, ³Cornell University, Geneva, NY.
- 2:45 - 3:00 Fungicide dip treatment of strawberry transplants as management of *Botrytis cinerea* resistant isolates. **M. Oliveira**, L. Cordova, M. Marin, and N. Peres; University of Florida, Wimauma, FL.
- 3:00 - 3:30 *Poster Viewing & Networking*
- Graduate Student Research Competition (Session IV), Moderator: Caroline Land, SD-APS Graduate Student**
- 3:30 - 3:45 PM A phylogenetic network of the soilborne fungal pathogen *Sclerotium rolfsii* in the Southeastern US. **P. S. Soria** and N. S. Dufault; University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.
- 3:45 - 4:00 Characterization of functional subnetwork modules associated with ear rot and fumonisin biosynthesis in maize pathogen *Fusarium verticillioides*. **H. Yan**¹, H. Zhang¹, M. Kim¹, J. Huang², and W. Shim¹; ¹Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, ²Plant Protection College, Fuzhou, China.
- 4:00 - 4:15 HAP3 of *Phomopsis longicolla* influences growth, development, and pathogenesis. **M. L. Zaccaron**, W. Hawkins, S. Sharma, J. B. Ridenour, B. Dhillon, J. Rupe, and B. Bluhm; University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR.

- 4:15 - 4:30 PM Genome analyses of a novel, nematophagous fungus in the genus *Brachyphoris* provides clues on its potential use as biocontrol. **S. Sharma**, J. B. Ridenour, A. Zaccaron, and B. Bluhm; Department of Plant Pathology, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR.
- 4:30 - 4:45 Oxylipins control *Trichoderma virens*-mediated induced systemic resistance in maize. **K. Wang**, E. J. Borrego, C. M. Kenerley, and M. V. Kolomiets; Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.
- 4:45 - 5:00 Pathogen Triggered Plant *Volatiles* Induce Systemic Susceptibility in Neighboring Plants. **N. N. Constantino**, Z. Gorman, E. J. Borrego, Y. Park, and M. V. Kolomiets; Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

Contributed Papers (Poster Session I)

- 5:00 - 5:30 PM *Even-numbered authors present.*
- 6:00 *Bus leaves from Texas A&M AgriLife Center.*
*Dinner on your own.
- 6:00 – 7:30 *Graduate Student/Post-doc Social/Meeting
(*Dinner provided for early registrants. A bus will leave from the Texas A&M AgriLife Center following this meeting.*)

Sunday, February 19, 2017

- 7:15 AM *Bus leaves from Hilton College Station and Conference Center.*

Symposium, “All Aboard! Moving IPM Toward a Collaborative Future.” Moderator: Joe LaForest, Co-Director, Southern IPM Center

- 8:00 - 8:20 AM Texas; **David Kerns**, IPM Coordinator, Texas A&M University
- 8:20 - 8:40 Virginia; **David Langston**, IPM Coordinator, Virginia Tech
- 8:40 - 9:00 Oklahoma; **Tom Royer**, IPM Coordinator, Oklahoma State University
- 9:00 - 9:20 Arkansas; **Glenn Studebaker**, IPM Coordinator, University of Arkansas
- 9:20 - 9:40 Louisiana; **Clayton Hollier**, IPM Coordinator, Louisiana State University
- 9:40 - 10:00 Panel Discussion – The future of IPM in the Southern Region

10:00 - 10:30 AM *Poster Viewing & Networking*

Technical Papers (Session I), Moderator: Nick Dufault, SD-APS Vice President

10:30 - 10:45 AM Development of primers to simplify detection of phytoplasma causing lethal yellowing and date palm lethal decline. **A. Ravindran** and K. Ong; Texas A&M, College Station, TX.

10:45 - 11:00 Taproot decline: first report of a previously unknown disease of soybean. T. W. Allen¹, B. Bluhm², K. Conner³, V. Doyle⁴, **T. Price**⁵, E. J. Sikora³, R. Singh⁴, T. N. Spurlock⁶, M. Tomaso-Peterson⁷, and T. Wilkerson¹; ¹Delta Research and Extension Center, Stoneville, MS, ²University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, ³Auburn University, Auburn, AL, ⁴LSU AgCenter, Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology, Baton Rouge, LA, ⁵LSU AgCenter, Macon Ridge Research Station, Winnsboro, LA, ⁶University of Arkansas System Cooperative Extension Service, Southeast Research and Extension Center, Monticello, AR, ⁷Mississippi State University, Starkville, MS.

11:00 - 11:15 First report of tobacco ringspot virus associated with decline symptoms of an American hybrid grape cultivar in Texas. S. McBride¹, D. N. Appel¹, F. Pontasch², L. Gregg³, and **O. Alabi**³; ¹Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, ²Department of Horticulture Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, ³Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Weslaco, TX.

11:15 - 11:30 Survey for grapevine leafroll associated virus 3 in Texas vineyards. **D. N. Appel**¹, S. McBride¹, F. Pontasch², L. Gregg³, O. Alabi³; ¹Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, ²Department of Horticulture Sciences, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, ³Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center, Weslaco, TX.

11:30 - 11:50 APS Update from **Mary Palm**, APS President-Elect, USDA APHIS PPQ PHP

11:50 AM - 1:00 PM Lunch

Technical Papers (Session II), Moderator: Nicole Gauthier, SD-APS Immediate Past President

- 1:00 - 1:15 PM Utilizing global positioning and geographical information systems for tracking Phymatotrichopsis root rot disease in alfalfa. **C. Mattupalli**, M. R. Komp, and C. A. Young; The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Ardmore, OK.
- 1:30 - 1:45 A risk assessment model for bacterial leaf spot of pepper based on concentrations of macronutrients and micronutrients and micronutrient ratios. **B. Dutta**¹, D. B. Langston², and R. Gitaitis¹; ¹Department of Plant Pathology, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA, ²Virginia Tech, Suffolk, VA.
- 1:45 - 2:00 PM Potential interaction of zinc and Actigard in tomato spotted wilt virus – *Nicotiana tabacum* pathosystem. **A. Selph**, R. D. Gitaitis, and B. Dutta; Department of Plant Pathology, University of Georgia, Tifton, GA.
- 2:00 - 2:15 Effect of planting date, seed treatment, seed quality, flooding and Pythium resistance to soybean emergence. **J. C. Rupe**¹, C. S. Rothrock¹, L. Rosso², and E. Gbur¹; ¹University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, ²Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, VA.
- 2:15 - 2:30 Performance of root-knot nematode resistant cotton varieties in fields infested with *Rotylenchulus reniformis*. **J. Woodward**¹, J. Webb², and T. Wheeler³; ¹Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Lubbock, TX, ²Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX, ³Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Lubbock, TX.
- 2:30 - 2:45 Characterization of NBS-LRR disease resistance gene homologues isolated from upland and lowland switchgrass ecotypes. **L. D. Nissen** and S. M. Smith; University of Georgia, Athens, GA.
- 2:45 - 3:30 SD-APS Business Meeting

Contributed Papers (Poster Session II)

- 3:30 - 4:00 PM *Odd-numbered authors present.*
- 4:00 - 4:15 Poster Breakdown
- 4:30 *Bus leaves from Texas A&M AgriLife Center.*
- 6:30 - 9:00 Awards Banquet
Hilton College Station and Conference Center (Oakwood Ballroom)

Monday, February 20, 2017

7:15 AM - 12:30 PM Ag Around TAMU Tour

Van leaves from Hilton College Station and Conference Center at 7:00 AM.

Contributed Papers (Posters)

*Indicates Student Presenter

**Indicates Southern Plant Diagnostic Network Laboratory Updates

Poster No.

- 01** Mississippi State University Plant Diagnostic Lab annual activity report for the Southern Plant Diagnostic Network. **C. J. Balbalian**; Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS.
- 02** An update on the University of Georgia (UGA) Extension Plant Pathology Southern Plant Diagnostic Network (SPDN) Plant Disease Clinics. **A. Jogi**¹, P. M. Brannen¹, J. H. Brock², B. Dutta², R. C. Kemerait², E. L. Little¹, A. D. Martinez-Espinoza³, J. L. Williams-Woodward¹;
¹Department of Plant Pathology, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, ²University of Georgia, Tifton, GA, ³University of Georgia, Griffin, GA.
- 03** Texas Plant Disease Diagnostic Lab - state report. **S. McBride**, C. Rhodes, and K. Ong; Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.
- 04** 2015-2016 diagnostic developments in the UF-IFAS Plant Diagnostic Center. **C. Harman**, S. Bec, and J. Bonkowski; Department of Plant Pathology and Plant Diagnostic Center UF- IFAS, Gainesville, FL.
- 05** The Arkansas Plant Health Clinic. **S. E. Smith**; University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service, Fayetteville, AR.
- 06** Virginia Tech Plant Disease Clinic highlights – 2016. **M. A. Hansen** and E. A. Bush; Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA.
- 07** 2016 activities: Plant Disease and Insect Clinic (PDIC), North Carolina State University. **B. Shew**, M. Munster, M. Bertone, and S. Butler; North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC.
- 08** Louisiana State University Plant Diagnostic Center annual report. **R. Singh**; Louisiana State University AgCenter, Baton Rouge, LA.
- 09** New and emerging diseases in Puerto Rico in 2016. **C. Estevez de Jensen**; University of Puerto Rico, Agro-environmental Sciences, Mayaguez, PR.

- 10** State report for Kentucky: Accomplishments and outreach from the University of Kentucky Plant Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. **J. W. Beale**; University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.
- 11 WHAT about social media? Communicating science in the digital world. **T. Hawk**, M. Little, and K. Ong; Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, College Station, TX.
- 12 Improved diagnostic methods for *Xylella fastidiosa* infecting pecan and related *Carya* species. **A. Hilton***¹, X. Wang², Y. Jo¹, and L. J. Grauke²; ¹Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, ²USDA-ARS Pecan Breeding and Germplasm Repository, Somerville, TX.
- 13 Refining estimates of the distribution of plant-associated fungi using host-fungus association and plant distribution data. **Z. Carver*** and V. Doyle; Department of Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.
- 14 Potential varietal resistance to taproot decline of soybean. T. W. Allen¹, **T. Price**², H. Pruitt, M. Purvis², M. Tomaso-Peterson³, and T. Wilkerson¹; ¹Delta Research and Extension Center, Stoneville, MS, ²LSU AgCenter, Macon Ridge Research Station, Winnsboro, LA, ³Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS.
- 15 Fungicide sensitivity of *Corynespora cassiicola* (target spot) isolates. **K. Laurel**¹, R. C. Kemerait¹, M. T. Brewer², and K. L. Stevenson¹; ¹University of Georgia, Tifton, GA, ²University of Georgia, Athens, GA.
- 16 Reduction of anthracnose of sorghum, caused by *Colletotrichum sublineola*, using fungicides applied at flowering in Wharton County, Texas in 2016. **T. S. Isakeit**¹, L. Prom², T. Janak³, and J. Grichar³; ¹Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, ²USDA-ARS, Southern Plains Agriculture Research Center, College Station, TX, ³BH Genetics, Ganado, TX.
- 17 Atoxicogenic *Fusarium verticillioides* as a biocontrol agent and growth promoting endophyte of maize. **J. Bennett***, T. S. Isakeit, G. Sword, and M. V. Kolomiets; Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.
- 18 Tissue-specific transcriptome analysis of *Bactericera cockerelli* infected by “*Candidatus Liberibacter solanacearum*”. **I. E. Badillo-Vargas** and G. Esparza-Díaz; Texas A&M AgriLife Research, Weslaco, TX.
- 19 Characterization of Tvhyd1, a *Trichoderma virens* hydrophobin. **J. Taylor**¹, B. Horwitz², and C. M. Kenerley¹; ¹Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, ²Isreal Institute of Technology, Haifa, Israel.

- 20 LOX10-mediated signaling increases maize susceptibility to *Colletotrichum graminicola* by suppressing SA biosynthesis. **Z. Gorman***, E. J. Borrego, and M. V. Kolomiets; Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.
- 21 Management of root-knot nematodes in the northern Delta using Telone II soil fumigant and root-knot nematode resistant cotton varieties. **R. Haygood**¹, M. McPherson², and A. Jones³; ¹Dow AgroSciences, Memphis, TN, ²Phytogen Seed Company, Leland, MS, ³University of Missouri, Portageville, MO.
- 22 Management of plant-parasitic nematodes in soybean using site-specific methods. **B. Boney**¹, T. N. Spurlock¹, J. C. Rupe², T. W. Allen³, P. Francis¹, R. Stark¹, C. Overstreet⁴, and A. C. Tolbert¹; ¹University of Arkansas, Monticello, AR, ²University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, ³Mississippi State University, Stoneville, MS, ⁴Louisiana State University AgCenter, Baton Rouge, LA.

2017 SD-APS/SIPMC/SPDN Meeting Planning Committee

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Carrie Harmon, SPDN Project Director
Joseph LaForest, SIPMC Co-Director
Bobby Haygood, Dow AgroSciences

Local Arrangements

Mandy Little, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
Corinne Rhodes, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service

See you next year in Fayetteville, Arkansas!

Southern IPM Center

The Southern IPM Center is one of four regional IPM Centers funded by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture to serve IPM researchers, educators and practitioners. We serve as the hub of a multi-state partnership and communication network linking diverse audiences.

Our Center includes three university partners: N.C. State University, Auburn University, and the University of Georgia. We serve Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The Southern IPM Center promotes the adoption of IPM practices to solve pest management problems in agriculture, urban areas and forests in the Southern U.S. IPM is a pest management approach designed to enhance economic, human health and environmental benefits through optimal decisions driven by strong science.

To accomplish that goal, we help scientists, educators and other stakeholders fulfill priorities submitted through working groups and research and extension projects, organize efficient responses to regional emerging issues and document impacts of IPM.

Our programs include:

- Facilitation of Innovation Through Technology (FITT), which supports online communication and applications
- Regulatory Information Network, which manages information flow between regulatory agencies
- Grants programs, including IPM Enhancement, Critical Need and Crop Profiles and Pest Management Strategic Plans

Southern Plant Diagnostic Network

The Southern Plant Diagnostic Network (SPDN) comprises 12 states and two U.S. island territories: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and the US Virgin Islands. The SPDN hub laboratory and Regional Center are located at the University of Florida (starred location on map). Plant pathologists represent most states.

The SPDN comprises subtropical to temperate climates and crops as diverse as sugarcane, peaches, soybeans, ornamentals, agronomics, and vegetables. USDA-NIFA funds support lab functions as well as training efforts for diagnosticians and identifiers throughout the region. The SPDN has networked and strengthened the laboratories at each member institution and will continue to encourage the incorporation of additional laboratories in each state (secondary pathology laboratories, entomology, weed science, and nematology laboratories). The SPDN Regional Director is Dr. Jeffrey B. Jones, Professor of the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Florida. Dr. Carrie Lapaire Harmon, Director of the Plant Diagnostic Center at the University of Florida, provides support and serves as project director and administers funding allocations, prepares reports, directs the hub laboratory, and coordinates diagnostic efforts in the SPDN. Find us on the web at www.NPDN.org and on Facebook at facebook.com/SouthernPlantDiagnosticNetwork.

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